

L.E. Carpenter, Wharton, N.J.

Hazardous Waste Site Dossier

This active on-site generator ran into problems in the early 1960s in disposing^{of} its processing waste. The company placed sludges and settleable solids into drums, pumping off the liquid and burying the waste in the rear of the property. These contained vinylene, xylene, naphthalene, plasticizers and other chemicals from manufacturing of vinyl coated wall coverings. It could not be ascertained if all materials were placed in drums prior to burial.

In 1975 holding tanks were installed to store the waste in the old waste disposal area. During installation contaminated groundwater was released into the Rockaway River less than 150 feet away. This resulted in a large fish kill and involved the NJDEP.

The site was also implicated in the closure of Municipal Well #3 in Wharton, when xylene contamination was found in its water. It was later declared safe and reopened.

Mr. Mike Kramer, inspector of HWI, NJDEP in his report of 5/10/79, expressed concern regarding contamination of a back up municipal water supply well located 3/4 of a mile downstream from the disposal area. The Rockaway River feeds several large capacity wells downstream.

Various analyses performed on groundwater samples taken from test pits indicated presence of phthalate esters, xylene, oil and grease so that the site was prohibited letting the discharge either directly into the Rockaway River or to the existing sanitary sewer system. Remedial action was suggested on February 2, 1979 by James R. Kane of Elson T. Killam Associates, Inc. - consultants to RVRSA (Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority). It consisted of either treating the discharge on site by utilizing portable treatment units, then released into the sewers, or preferably removing it from the site, treat and dispose by a service company specialized in chemical waste removal. It would necessitate to dewater an estimated 20,000 gallons.

Messrs. William Althoff and Robert Plumb, NJDEP made an on-site inspection on March 12, 1979 and found housekeeping deplorable. They found badly contaminated water in a storage tank behind the plant. There is no doubt of groundwater contamination beneath the property. They suggested to install monitor wells, but the company is not cooperative at present. In the meantime, they believe samples should be taken from pits for evidence. Sampling of the stream above and below the plant should also be taken. There is an abandoned water supply well on-site, near the river. (The Facility has a permit: NPDES #NJ-0003611). Their recommendation: 1) to further investigate this site which poses threat to the nearby wells, as well as to the valley fill aquifer. 2) To install monitor wells to be sampled for organic compounds known to exist there. 3) Proof of storage integrity should be sought and below ground tanks tested. 4) A ground water decontamination program should be demanded and a containment scheme devised.

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The USEPA Emergency Response and Investigation Branch visited the site on August 28 and October 4, 1979 as documented by their survey record and dossier, with the cover letter by Fred Rubel, Chief ER & IB, dated October 12, 1979.

NJDEP, which is negotiating with L. E. Carpenter on the corrective measures to be taken, is willing to hand it over to the USEPA for further action.



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE LOG

SITE NUMBER 035301

NJ000001790

NOTE: The initial identification of a potential site or incident should not be interpreted as a finding of illegal activity or confirmation that an actual health or environmental threat exists. All identified sites will be assessed under the EPA's Hazardous Waste Site Enforcement and Response System to determine if a hazardous waste problem actually exists.

SITE NAME

L.E. CARPENTER CO., 170 NORTH MAIN ST.

CITY

WHARTON, MORRIS COUNTY

STATE

NEW JERSEY

ZIP CODE

07885

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL OR KNOWN PROBLEM

SPILLS HAVE OCCURED FROM LEAKING DRUMS, RUN-OFFS INTO SURFACE WATERS
POTENTIAL DANGER FOR CONTAMINATION (ROCKAWAY RIVER NEARBY) EXISTS FOR BOTH
GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATERS. N.J. DEP SUGGESTED MONITOR WELLS & CONTAINMENT
STRUCTURES. FIRM NOT RESPONSIVE

ITEM	DATE OF DETERMINATION OR COMPLETION	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL (EPA, State, Contractor, Other)	PERSON MAKING ENTRY TO LOG FORM	DATE ENTERED ON LOG (mo, day, yr)
1. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL PROBLEM	3/12/79	NJ DEP	Geo. B. RADAN	10/26/79
2. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT	9/28/79	EPA (RON TESTA)	4	4
APPARENT SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIGH <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM <input type="checkbox"/> LOW <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN			4
3. SITE INSPECTION	8/28/79 10/14/79	EPA (ER.)	Geo. B. RADAN	4
4. EPA TENTATIVE DISPOSITION (check appropriate item(s) below)	10/26/79			
<input type="checkbox"/> a. NO ACTION NEEDED		POSSIBLE EPA		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. INVESTIGATIVE ACTION NEEDED		SPEC OF 311 ORDER	4	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. REMEDIAL ACTION NEEDED		NJ DEP	4	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. ENFORCEMENT ACTION NEEDED		"		
5. EPA FINAL STRATEGY DETERMINATION (check appropriate item(s) below)				
<input type="checkbox"/> a. NO ACTION NEEDED				
<input type="checkbox"/> b. REMEDIAL ACTION NEEDED				
<input type="checkbox"/> c. REMEDIAL ACTION NEEDED BUT, NO RESOURCES AVAILABLE				
<input type="checkbox"/> d. ENFORCEMENT ACTION NEEDED				
<input type="checkbox"/> (1) CASE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARED				
<input type="checkbox"/> (2) ENFORCEMENT CASE FILED OR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ISSUED				
6. STRATEGY COMPLETED				

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE DOSSIER—L.E. CARPENTER COMPANY

This site has been referred to EPA by the New Jersey DEP. The L.E. Carpenter Company is apparently responsible for a pond or lagoon on the periphery of this property, which contains hazardous chemicals. Recent excavation for a sewer line indicated that the pond or lagoon is leaching its contents into the nearby ground water. It seems probable that chemicals from the site are contaminating municipal wells. The company is about to install monitoring wells to determine whether leachate from its property is in fact the source of the municipal well contamination.

Members of the General Enforcement Branch will further examine the files on this case at the DEP on August 17, 1979. New Jersey has indicated a willingness to give this case to EPA for further action, if we are interested.